



# HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON, P.C.

AN INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FIRM

FAX TRANSMISSION October 27, 2006

TO: Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE  
Examiner: T. Beach  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FROM: Curtis B. Hamre

OUR REF: 06006.0020US01

TELEPHONE: (612) 455.3800

Total pages, including cover letter: 7

PTO FAX NUMBER: 571.273.2885

If all pages are NOT received, please call us at 612.455.3800 or fax us at 612.455.3801.

Title of Document: **Communication Regarding Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant: ALMEN  
Serial No.: 10/773,505  
App. Filed: February 6, 2004  
Group Art No.: 3671  
Confirmation No.: 6628

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-5478. Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate.

By: Curtis B. Hamre

Name: Curtis B. Hamre

Reg. No.: 29,165

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

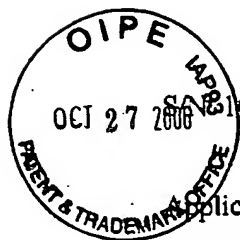
Peggy J. Kerkhove

Peggy J. Kerkhove  
Signature

October 27, 2006

Date

225 SOUTH SIXTH STREET · SUITE 2650 · MINNEAPOLIS · MN 55402  
TEL 612.455.3800 · FAX 612.455.3801  
WWW.HSML.COM · MAIL@HSML.COM

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	ALMEN	Examiner:	T. Beach
Serial No.:	10/773,505	Group Art Unit:	3671
Filed:	February 6, 2004	Docket No.:	06006.0020US01
Title:	HYDRAULIC ADJUSTABLE HINGED HITCH		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d):

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 27, 2006.

By:

Name: Peggy J. Rekhovc

COMMUNICATION REGARDING INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pertaining to the above-referenced patent application, Applicant respectfully asserts that on April 30, 2004 an Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. A copy of the documents, as filed, are enclosed. It has come to Applicants attention that the documents filed on April 30, 2004 were placed in the wrong image file wrapper. Applicant has contacted the Electronic Business Center to request that the documents be placed in the corrected image file wrapper. As of the date of this filing, the documents are located in the image file wrapper for application serial number 10/733,505.

Applicant respectfully requests that the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with an official communication.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &  
LARSON, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902-0902  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902  
(612) 455-3800

Dated: October 27, 2006

By:

Curtis B. Hamre

Reg. No. 29,165

CBH/pjk

**52835**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



Receipt is hereby acknowledged for the following in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

In re Application of: ALMEN

For: HYDRAULIC ADJUSTABLE HINGED HITCH

Docket No.: 06006.0020US01

Filed: February 6, 2004

Serial No.: 10/773505

Due Date:

Date Mailed: April 30, 2004

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449
- ☒ Return postcard

Patent

CBH/ame



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant: ALMEN Examiner: Unknown  
Serial No.: 10/773505 Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Filed: February 6, 2004 Docket: 06006.0020US01  
Title: HYDRAULIC ADJUSTABLE HINGED HITCH

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent App, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 30, 2004.

By: A. Ewald  
Name: A Ewald

Mail Stop Patent App  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

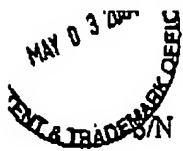
- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: Curtis B. Hamre  
Name: Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No.: 29,165  
CBH/ame

(PTO TRANSMITTAL - GENERAL)



S/N 10/773505

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Almen Examiner: Unknown  
Serial No.: 10/773505 Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Filed: February 6, 2004 Docket No.: 06006.0020US01  
Title: HYDRAULIC ADJUSTABLE HINGED HITCH

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent App, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 30, 2004.

By: 

Name: A Ewald

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))**

Mail Stop Patent App

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided, as this application was filed after June 30, 2003. A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2).

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

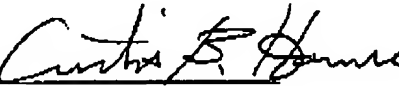
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: April 30, 2004

By 

Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No. 29,165

CBH/ame



Date Mailed: April 30, 2004

Sheet 1 of 1

FORM 1449\*

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number:

06006.0020US01

Application Number:

10773505

Applicant: Almen

Filing Date: February 6, 2004

Group Art Unit: Unknown

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,293,475	September 25, 2001	Sobolik			
	6,505,688	January 14, 2003	Almen			
	5,181,573	January 26, 1993	Almen			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.

\*Substitute Disclosure Statement Form (PTO-1449)

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PAGE 7/7 \* RCVD AT 10/27/2006 4:30:53 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXXF-5/2 \* DNIS:2732885 \* CSID:612-455-3801 \* DURATION (mm-ss):01-00